

The Missouri Public Service Commission

Informed Consumers, Quality Utility Services, and a Dedicated Organization for Missourians in the 21st Century

NATURAL GAS PRICES



- ◆ **What the wholesale supplier charges your local natural gas company is determined in an unregulated market.** Congress deregulated natural gas over a decade ago. Now prices are determined in an open, competition-based market.
- ◆ **Your local natural gas company must make a filing with the Public Service Commission** in order to increase or decrease your natural gas rates to reflect wholesale supplier price changes.
- ◆ **The role of the Missouri Public Service Commission is limited when it comes to rate changes associated with the actual cost of natural gas. The Commission does not regulate wholesale supplier rates.**
- ◆ Wholesale prices are subject to wide variations depending on a number of factors including supply, demand and weather. **Colder than normal weather tends to drive natural gas prices upward.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO



- ◆ Have the furnace checked and tuned-up if needed and replace furnace filters each month when dirty.
- ◆ Consider contacting the local natural gas company to ask about budget billing, which spreads total energy costs over a 12-month period. Budget billing amounts may be adjusted at various times during the 12-month period.
- ◆ Add attic insulation if necessary. Heat rises and without adequate home insulation that heat will quickly leak outdoors into the atmosphere. Some consumers may be eligible for weatherization assistance.
- ◆ Place weather stripping around doors, use plastic film covering and caulk windows to keep heat from escaping from your home. Close fireplace dampers when the fireplace is not being used. Have the chimney checked for blockage.
- ◆ Place an approved insulated cover-jacket around your hot water heater. Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees.
- ◆ Use caution with gas-fired appliances; get professional help for any projects that are beyond your personal capabilities.
- ◆ Assess whether it is time to replace your furnace with a more efficient model.

For more information _____



Created in 1913, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates over 1,000 investor-owned telecommunications, water and sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC works to ensure that Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related problem that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at **1-800-392-4211** or visit our website at **www.psc.mo.gov**